Lesson Focus The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying That Something or Someone Is Not There. マトリーはここにいません。 Matorī wa koko ni imasen. "Muttley's not here." In the previous lessons, you learned the difference between *imasu* and *arimasu* and how to say that someone or something is in a place. That information is going to come in useful again in this lesson, as we learn how to say that someone or something is NOT there. "[Person/Thing] Is Not Here."

Saying "a person or thing is not here" is very easy. All you have to do is take the [person/thing] wa [place] ni imasu/arimasu

Of course, as always, you can leave out the name of the person/animal/thing when answering the question if it is obvious

structure, which we learned in the previous lessons, and replace -masu with -masen to make the negative form.

1. ジョンさんはがっこうにいますか。 A: John-san wa gakkō ni imasu ka. A: "Is John at school?" ジョンさんはがっこうにいません。 B: John-san wa gakkō ni imasen. B: "John is not at school."

わたしのけいたいはそこにありますか。

A: Watashi no keitai wa soko ni arimasu ka.

A: "Is my mobile phone there?"

いいえ。ここにありません。

B: lie. Koko ni arimasen.

B: "No. It's not here."

Reference

[Person/animal] wa [place] ni imasen → "[Person/animal] is not at [place]"

[Thing/building] wa [place] ni arimasen → "[Thing/building] is not at [place]"

Lesson Notes

imasu → imasen

from the context.

For Example:

Formation

arimasu → arimasen

Key Vocabulary & Phrases ★ [place] e yōkoso! ([place]へようこそ!)

★ ひさしぶり・おひさしぶりです (hisashiburi/o-hisashiburi desu)

your regret. To make it polite/formal, you can say ざんねんですね (zannen desu ne).

Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

O-hisashiburi desu. → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 6

koko → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 20

★ あれ? (are?) This is the Japanese equivalent of "huh?," "hey!," or "oh?," and we use it to express surprise when something is perhaps not as we would expect or when we notice something surprising.

for greeting friends and family.

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★ ざんねん (zan'nen)

Grammar

否定形 hiteikei

いる (1) iru (1)

Negative form

ある aru

This is a set phrase that means "Welcome to [place]!" We use this, for example, to welcome guests to places such as Disneyland. However, when you walk into a shop in Japan, you will be told いらっしゃいませ (irasshaimase), which is the equivalent of "Hello, how may I help you?"

You probably remember that both of these phrases mean "Long time no see!" or "I haven't seen you in such a long time!"

Adding o- at the beginning and desu at the end makes the phrases formal and polite, while just saying hisashiburi is suitable

This means "unfortunate" or "a shame," and it is the same as saying "What a pity" or "That's a shame" in English to express

• arimasu/arimasu ka → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 19, Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 14

imasu/imasu ka → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 20, Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 13

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to be, to exist (of inanimate things); to have

to exist (for animate, usually living, things)

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